



**Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Fire Morning Update**  
**Deer Park, Texas**  
**March 28, 2019 0400 – March 28, 2019 1200**

**Incident Management Objectives:**

**Objective 1:** Ensure the health and safety of the public and response personnel.

**Objective 2:** Establish an incident management structure and processes employing the Incident Command System to enable effective overall management of the event with deployment of resources (staff and equipment) in a rapid, focused and well-coordinated manner.

**Objective 3:** Encourage a collaborative federalism approach, where Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments interact cooperatively and collectively to solve common problems.

**Objective 4:** Take actions to assess the on-site and off-site impacts during the emergency response phase of this incident. Provide this information to state and local authorities to assist them in their decision to protect the local citizens.

**Objective 5:** Conduct activities to prevent off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

**Objective 6:** Respond to, mitigate and recovery off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

**Objective 7:** Maintain open communication with Regional management

**Incident Overview:**

On March 17, 2019, an above ground storage tank containing Naphtha, caught fire at the Intercontinental Terminal Company (ITC), LLC facility in Deer Park Texas. The ITC facility consists of 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks containing petroleum products including Naphtha, Xylene, Toluene, Gasoline Blendstock, and Base Oil. Eleven of the 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks on site were involved in the fire, resulting in the release of contaminants into the atmosphere, as well discharging the contents of the tanks to drainage pathways. Firefighting water and foam potentially containing petroleum products were released from an outfall due to accumulation of water from firefighting efforts. Various firefighting organizations assisted in putting out the fire utilizing a variety of firefighting foams.

A partial breach of the tank farm containment wall on the northeast side near Tank 80-7 occurred at approximately 12:00 pm on March 22, 2019, to the ditched area and into Tucker Bayou. Additional boom was placed along the ditch leading to Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou (Houston Ship Channel). The Responsible Party's contractor has rebuilt the containment wall using clay material.

At approximately 3:40 pm on March 22, 2019, three tanks reignited. The fire spread from the containment area through the breached containment wall into the ditch along Tidal Road. Foam was applied to the tanks and the ditch to extinguish the fire.

During and after the fire and the breach of the secondary containment, several readings of benzene above 1.0 ppm were detected (highest was 16.5 near National Tank Services) by the various entities conducting air monitoring through the afternoon and night. These readings were located along the ship channel.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) Captain of the Port is continuing the controlled open for the Ship Channel on March 26, 2019, with traffic during the daytime only. Decontamination vessels are being positioned to help ships that may have residue on the hulls.

Due to the initial fires and subsequent releases, shelters in place have occurred throughout the week of March 17, 2019.

#### **Executive Overview:**

- On March 28, 2019, the warning issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services to not eat fish caught in the Houston Ship Channel is still in effect.
- To prevent reignition and reduce emissions, foaming of the secondary containment continues as necessary.
- EPA conducted surface water sampling on March 28, 2019 during reporting period 21 at ten sample locations. Samples were collected from upstream the confluence of Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River in the Old River (at River Terrace Park, Channelview, Texas), confluence of Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River (at the shoreline of Juan Sequin Historic Park), in the main channel of the San Jacinto River just upstream the confluence with Buffalo Bayou, and downstream in the San Jacinto River. The surface water samples will be analyzed for PFAS, VOCs, SVOCs, COD, and Oil & Grease.
- Several entities including Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the 6th Civil Support Team (CST), and ITC continue to conduct air monitoring around the tank farm, in adjoining industrial areas, and communities downwind from the facility.
- The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values on March 28, 2019. ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the ITC in Deer Park, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of TCEQ short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs.
- EPA conducted handheld air monitoring from March 28, 2019 (4:00 am) to March 28, 2019 (12:00 am) at 14 locations. One result for Volatile Organic Carbons (VOCs) has been recorded above the detection limit but it does not exceed the TCEQ short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs).
- ITC continued air monitoring on March 28, 2019 there were 989 volatile organic compounds readings (3 detections) with and 422 benzene readings (0 detections).
- Vacuum truck operations at Tucker Bayou and the outfall ditch continue on a 24-hour basis.
- On March 28, 2019, ITC developed a plan to deal with the remaining materials in the tank farm. The following table provides the dates they will address the tanks:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tank No. Being Addressed</b>
3/28/2019	80-2, 80-3, 80-13, 80-14, 80-15
3/29/2019	80-5, 80-6, 80-12
3/30/2019	80-7, 80-8, 80-10
3/31/2019	80-9, 80-11
4/1/2019	80-1, 80-4

## Coordination with State Agencies:

On March 17, 2019, in response to a tank fire at the ITC, federal, state and local agencies joined ITC in a Unified Command. Multiple agencies including the United States Coast Guard, the TCEQ, and Harris County Pollution Control Services supported the response effort.

## EPA Resources:

Personnel	EPA R6 Dallas	ITC Deer Park	Total
EPA Region 6	8	8	16
EPA Non-Region 6	0	4	4
START	1	14	15
Other Contractors	0	8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>43</b>

## Additional Information: Air Monitoring and Water Sampling locations:

